

originally built in 1867. The women of the parish who sponsored three operettas at the Tootle Opera House raised the money for the organ. The original portion is the oldest organ in St. Joseph.

Christ Episcopal Church continues to be a presence in downtown St. Joseph. The members are involved in community outreach activities including the Open Door Food Kitchen, Downtown Partners Association, Ecumenical Corporation for Housing Opportunities, and a Mother's Day Baby Shower to benefit the Division of Family Services.

I commend the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church on their continued commitment to maintain high standards of worship, music and fellowship for a church of 220 parishioners. I am pleased to join with the St. Joseph community and the State of Missouri in congratulating the congregation and wishing them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.●

HONORING CURTIS GIBSON

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a young man who represents the best of Montana, Curtis Gibson. Curtis has distinguished himself as an intelligent, self-motivated Eagle Scout from troop nine in Billings and I am proud to speak about his accomplishment today. I would like to begin by stating that Curtis is the son of Robert and Linda Gibson and the brother of Kelly Gibson, who is also an Eagle Scout.

As you may know, a Boy Scout is called to follow a strict code of conduct. He must be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind and brave. I am proud to say that Curtis Gibson embodies all of these attributes. While upholding the principles of the Scout oath and law, a potential Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges and prove to be a capable and effective leader. Moreover, he must also show that he has planned, developed, and led others in various service projects. I am here to affirm that Curtis has met these criteria and has recently been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

Along the way to becoming an Eagle Scout, Curtis organized 20 scouts from Troop Nine to improve Montana's park system. They designed and constructed covered information kiosks at the entrances to Two Moon Park and Norm Schoenthal Island to benefit the Yellowstone River Parks Association and the Yellowstone County Parks Department. These scouts volunteered more than 100 hours during the school year to complete the project and I am grateful for his dedication to the greater Billings community. Curtis's project certainly benefits our park systems, but it also serves Troop Nine and those who gave their time for service and leadership.

I am proud to say that Curtis has been involved in scouting for more than ten years and that he has spent six of those years with Troop Nine. Even though Saint Bernard's Parish in the Billings Heights is their home, Curtis has allowed his scouting activities to take him to Minnesota, Wyoming, South Dakota, the Florida Keys and Canada. In addition, Curtis recently joined Venture Crew Seven. This group joins together experienced Boy Scouts in the Billings area for extensive outdoor activities and service projects. However, Curtis has not limited himself solely to scouting. He is an active member of the student body at Skyview High School where he competes on the varsity swim team. Last year Curtis was named to the Montana all-state swim team.

Once again, I would like to express my appreciation to Curtis for his dedication to the state of Montana and his service to the city of Billings. Curtis has prepared himself well for a lifetime of leadership. The youth of our communities will certainly one day, direct the future greatness of our Nation. It gives me great joy to see that Curtis has taken an active role to ensure the continued success and triumph of Montana and the United States.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BUD" CLAY

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a World War II veteran who brought hope to an occupied people.

On May 24th for more than half a century, the residents of the former German-occupied Als Island off the coast of Denmark celebrated Robert "Bud" Clay as a hero. However, until recently, Bud was unaware of this honor.

Robert B. Clay was a Lieutenant Colonel in the 351st Bomb Group stationed in Polebrook, England during World War II. He was leading a B-17 bombing raid when things went terribly wrong. The plane's engines started failing one by one. Bud steered the plane toward neutral Sweden, but with the failure of an additional engine, it was clear that they would be unable to escape enemy territory. After ensuring that eight of the ten crewmen had safely bailed out of the plane, Clay and his copilot attempted a crash-landing in a nearby grassy clearing on Als Island.

Als Island was first occupied by German troops in 1939. The crashing of the B-17 on May 24, 1944 was seen by the people of the island as a symbol of approaching liberation. In fact, the plane was such a beacon of hope to them that the people of Als Island kept pieces of the wrecked B-17 not only as souvenirs but also as near-sacred tokens. One woman even made her wedding dress using fabric taken from one of the pilot's parachutes.

All the crewmen in Lieutenant Colonel Clay's plane survived the flight, but

were taken as prisoners-of-war. Clay was held captive as a POW for one year in camps near Sagon, Nuremberg, and finally Mooseburg, Germany.

Then on the 28th of April, 1945, Bud saw the stars and stripes being flown from a tall building in an adjacent town. He suddenly realized that liberation was on its way. An experience uncannily like the Danes who viewed his plane's crash as a harbinger of freedom.

For 40 years Clay did not speak of his experience. He was the pilot of the mission and harbored feelings of guilt and responsibility, for the crash, for his crew being taken as POWs, and for not being able to finish out other missions.

However, as he was looking through a war-reunion newsletter two years ago, Clay recognized a photograph of the plane wreckage and the hills and farmhouses surrounding it. An islander had taken the picture as a boy and published the photo and story in hopes of finding the Americans whose crash-landing has been celebrated for decades.

This year will be the first year that Clay will be part of that celebration. He and five others from his bomber crew have been invited to personally attend the ceremonies that have been held in their honor for 56 years.

Clay will forever live as a hero in the memories of Als Island people. He has received e-mails and letters from them expressing their thanks. They have told him that seeing his plane helped them realize for the first time that help was on the way. I am very proud that this great man, who continues to serve in his local community, will finally receive the personal recognition he earned so long ago.●

MIAMI EDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to share with you a remarkable story.

As sweeping a statement as this is, the story of Miami Edison Middle School is truly the story of America in the 20th Century.

It is the story of immigration, with all its challenges, and all its rewards.

It is the story of hard work, of culture differences, and cross-cultural understanding.

It is the story of a city, and a neighborhood and how each generation that passes through leaves behind a layer to build on.

With its Art Deco auditorium and full-sized gymnasium, Miami Edison High School, originally called Dade County Agricultural High, was as magnificent a structure as you could imagine when it was built in 1928.

Through the school, one can trace the growth and transformation of the face of Miami, and indeed, the country.

When it opened in what was then Lemon City, a swath of land surrounded by lemon and orange groves, the entire student body was white.